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Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1993

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This report contains the decisions of the Texas Bird Records Committee (hereafter "TBRC" or "committee") of the Texas Ornithological Society reached during 1993. For information on previous actions of the TBRC, see Arnold (1984, 1985), Lasley (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991), and Haynie (1992a, 1992b). The TBRC requests and reviews documentation on any record of a Texas Review Species (see end of report) as well as any record of any species if requested to do so by a member of the TBRC. Some of the records submitted to the TBRC during 1993 were gleaned from old *American Birds* or Christmas Bird Count files; thus some portion of the work of the committee during 1993 was to catch up on older records. The TBRC reached a final decision on 174 records during 1993: 127 records of 53 species were accepted and 47 records of 30 species were not accepted, an acceptance rate of 73% for this report. There were 207 observers who submitted documentation (to the TBRC or to other entities) that was reviewed by the committee during 1993.

This report officially adds 6 species to the Texas state list: Red-necked Grebe, Collared Plover, Wandering Tattler, Slaty-backed Gull, Green-breasted Mango, and Olive Warbler. The grebe was elevated from the Presumptive Species List (see end of report) when photographs were recently uncovered and the submitted record was accepted. The mango replaced "*Anthracothorax* species" which was added to the Texas state list in 1990. During 1993, the committee also accepted a sight record of Social Flycatcher. As a result, this previously unrecorded species constituted a new addition to the Presumptive Species List. The above actions brought the official Texas state list at the end of 1993 to 590 species in good standing. And with the removal of Red-necked Grebe and the addition of Social Flycatcher, the official Presumptive Species List remained at 4 species.

The TBRC solicits reports of any species on the Review List as well as any species not previously accepted for Texas. We desire written descriptions as well as photographs, video, and audio recordings if available. If anyone has information concerning a Review Species but is unsure how to submit that information please contact any member of the TBRC or contact the committee secretary, Greg Lasley, 305 Loganberry Court, Austin, Texas 78745-6527. For guidelines on preparing rare bird documentation, readers are encouraged to consult "How to Document Rare Birds" (Dittmann and Lasley 1992).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following *The AOU Checklist of North American Birds* (AOU 1983) as currently supplemented. A number in parentheses after the species name represents the total number of accepted records in Texas for that species at the end of 1993. In instances where birds were known to return from previous years, this number will be followed by a slash and a second number. The second number denotes the total number of accepted records if returnees are excluded. The number(s) will be listed for all Review Species, but not for certain other species (see end of report). Within each

species the records are listed chronologically. All observers who submitted written documentation or photos of accepted records are listed by initials. If known, the initials of those who discovered a particular bird are in **boldface** (assuming the discoverers submitted a description). There has been no attempt to list all observers who saw a particular bird. The TBRC file number of each accepted record will follow the observers' initials. This number consists of the year the record was originally submitted to the committee followed by a dash then a number. If photos are on file with the TBRC, the Texas Photo Record File (TPRF) (Texas A&M University) number is also given. If a tape recording of the bird is on file with the TBRC, the Texas Bird Sounds Library (TBSL) (Sam Houston State University) number is also given. Specimen records are denoted with an asterisk (*) followed by the institution where the specimen is housed and the catalog number if available. The information in each account is usually based on the information provided in the original submitted documentation; however, in some cases we have supplemented this with a full range of dates the bird(s) was present if that information was made available to us later. All locations in *italics* are counties.

TBRC Membership.—Members of the TBRC during 1993 who participated in decisions listed in this report are: John Arvin, Chairman, Keith Arnold, Academician, Greg Lasley, Secretary, Carl Haynie, Martin Reid, Chuck Sexton, Bret Whitney, David Wolf, and Barry Zimmer. During 1993, Bret Whitney retired from the committee, John Arvin was elected Chairman, Chuck Sexton was elected to a second term, and Martin Reid and Gail Luckner were elected as new members.

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Acknowledgments.—The TBRC is very grateful to the many contributors listed above, without whom this report would not be possible. We would also like to offer our sincere thanks to the following consultants who provided the TBRC with expert opinion, advice, or other information concerning records reviewed during 1993: Robert Bleiweiss, Gary Graves, Dave Lee, Robert Ridgely, Tom Schulenberg, Dick Sloss, and F. Gary Stiles. The author would especially like to thank Greg Lasley for reviewing the draft of this article and for making several helpful comments and suggestions.

Additional Abbreviations.—*AB* = *American Birds* magazine; AMNH = American Museum of Natural History; BBNP = Big Bend National Park; GMNP = Guadalupe Mountains National Park; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; SP = State Park; TCWC = Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (Texas A&M University); TOS = Texas Ornithological Society.

Accepted Records

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) (18). Two were photographed on Lake Texoma, *Grayson* during their stay 20 December 1991 & 24 February–14 March 1992 (**HG**, MP; 1992-42, TPRF #1103). One bird, apparently stained by oil, was photographed at Mustang Island, *Nueces* on 11 January 1992 (**BG**; 1992-83, TPRF #1115). Two were on Lake Tawakoni, *Rains* from 31 January–7 February 1993 (**MWh**, RK; 1993-29).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (39). An adult in breeding plumage flew by the Port Bolivar–Galveston ferry, *Galveston* on 26 April 1990 (**KR**, **LDe**; 1990-113). One was on Calaveras Lake, *Bexar* on 7 December 1991 (**WS**; 1992-75). Up to two were seen and photographed on Offatt's Bayou, *Galveston* from 24 December 1991–21 May 1992 (**PG**, GDL, JD, TF, PF, GL; 1992-41, TPRF #1105). One was photographed on Lake O' The Pines, *Marion* during its stay 13 January–16 February 1992 (KN, PH, JWS, HB, FB, DW; 1992-22). A weakened bird was photographed from the beach at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 28 May 1992; it later

died (TA; 1992-86, *TCWC #13003, TPRF #1079). Up to two were on Lake Tawakoni, *Rains/Van Zandt* from 12 December 1992–7 February 1993 (**RK**, CH, MR, PPi, MWh; 1992-167 & 1993-21).

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) (2). One was on Lake O' The Pines, *Marion* from 12–14 January 1992 (**JD**, **SU**, PH, KN; 1992-23). This second record for Texas was the first yellow-billed considered "chaseable" by birders, however it proved to be disappointedly elusive.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) (8). One was photographed on Big Lake, *Reagan* during its stay 23–30 November 1975 (TM; 1992-129, TPRF #1069). This recently uncovered photograph was enough to elevate the species to full status on the Texas list. As a result, the five records formerly categorized as "accepted presumptive species" join the three records accepted here in sharing full status. One was at Freeport, *Brazoria* on 19 December 1982 (**DD**, **ER**, **JMcL**, **DC**; 1991-101). One was on Bob Sandlin Lake, *Titus* on 15 November 1992 (**RAl**; 1993-2).

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) (5). One was found dead on the beach at Padre Island, *Kleberg* on 6 September 1991 (**JFK**, **MQ**; 1992-20, *TCWC #12916, TPRF #1076).

Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) (7). One was in the channel in north Galveston, *Galveston* on 26 December 1990 (**PF**, **TF**; 1991-1). After three circulations and much discussion at the annual meeting, this first sight record for the species in Texas was accepted. As was the case here, it was argued that sight and even photographic records of this species would be very difficult to impossible to distinguish from Short-tailed Shearwater. But given the high improbability of the latter's occurrence in the Gulf, the committee agreed that all future records of Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater (including the two records here) would be treated at Sooty Shearwater. One was off Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 6 January 1992 (**JD**, **SU**; 1992-27).

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) (12). One was found dead on the beach at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 23 January 1989 (**TA**, GL; 1992-46, *TCWC #1281x (x = 6 or 4?), TPRF #1096). One was 70 miles east of Port Aransas on 18 September 1992 (**CH**, **MR**, **CS**; 1992-123, TPRF #1068).

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (12). One was picked up sick from West Beach on Galveston Island, *Galveston* on 25 July 1983 when it was turned over to a rehabilitator, but it later died (AJM; 1992-156). Regrettably, no photographs were taken, the specimen was discarded, and we were left only with a barely acceptable description.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (31). One was in Austin, *Travis* on 7 May 1991 (**BR**; 1991-63). One was photographed in McAllen, *Hidalgo* during its stay 5–9 April 1992 (**RG**, **LG**, BZ; 1992-73, TPRF #1080). Two were near Petronilla, *Nueces* on 16 & 17 April 1992 (**AC**, **MC**, GS, RL, MLi; 1992-66). One was photographed at Fort Bliss, *El Paso* during its stay 29 April–4 May 1992 (**BZ**; 1992-91, TPRF #1097). One was photographed at High Island, *Galveston* during its stay 7–8 May 1992 (**FC**, JD; 1992-97, TPRF #1085). One was photographed in Austin during its stay 16–17 May 1992 (**VE**, **GL**, EK; 1992-71, TPRF #1093). One was in southeast *Dallas* from 8–23 May 1992 (**RRa**; 1992-79). Two were photographed on West Galveston Island, *Galveston* on 21 June 1992 (**TE**; 1992-111, TPRF #1086). Two were photographed in northwest Fort Worth, *Tarrant*

on 19 December 1992 (**CH**; 1992-168, TPRF #1141). One was at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* from 30 December 1992–2 January 1993 (**JI, VM, JMcB**; 1993-19).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (12). A male was north of Funston, *Jones* from 17 February–2 March 1992 (TEd, LB, JHo; 1992-82).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) (3/2). Last year's drake returned for its second year to La Porte, *Harris* from 17 December 1992–19 January 1993 (**BHo, LL**; 1992-169).

Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*) (19). Unless otherwise noted, all birds were in "female" plumage. Three were at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* from 28–30 December 1975 (**GM**; 1992-147). One breeding-plumaged male was in *Hidalgo* on 24 June 1990 (**JR, WR**; 1990-119). One was at Laguna Larga on the King Ranch, *Kleberg* on 24 April 1992 (**MF, JGr**; 1992-68). One was in Seadrift, *Calhoun* from 14 December 1992–3 January 1993 (WJ, RW, PHo, JT, GDL, GL, CH, MC, AC, PG, ML; 1992-161, TPRF #1123). Up to four were at Brazos Bend SP, *Fort Bend* from 20 December 1992–March 1993 (DB, BT, DCa; 1993-1). One was at Santa Ana NWR from 25–27 December 1992 (**SMa, GDL,** JC, PC; 1993-12, TPRF #1137). A photograph documenting this record was published in *AB* 47:321. The preceding 4 records and 10 reports currently in circulation bear testimony to the large incursion of Masked Ducks witnessed during 1992 and 1993.

Collared Plover (*Charadrius collaris*) (1). One adult female was at the Uvalde National Fish Hatchery, *Uvalde* from 9–12 May 1992 (**GDL, DF**, GL, CS, ML, WS, CH, JMu, CC, LA, AC, BO, RH, RTH; 1992-70, TPRF #1099). Photographs documenting this first record for the United States were published in *AB* 46:501 and on the cover of the *TOS Newsletter,* 40(2).

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) (16). At least two immatures were photographed below Falcon Dam, *Starr* during their stay 6 November 1992–15 April 1993 (**SW**, MF, GDL, DH, CM, SM, OC, JI, CH; 1992-131, TPRF #1100). One immature was photographed in Seadrift, *Calhoun* during its stay 10 December 1992–22 April 1993 (**JA, BFa**, CH, GDL, GL, MC, AC, PG, ML; 1992-159, TPRF #1125). Another immature was at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* from 12 February–early May 1993 (DMa, BM; 1993-26).

Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanus*) (1). One was in Galveston, *Galveston* from 23 April–8 May 1992 (**MT, BMi**, MR, GDL, DB, LH, RTh, TF, PF, LA, JD; 1992-64, TPRF #1090). A photograph documenting this first record for Texas was published in *AB* 46:500.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) (11). One was in Freeport, *Brazoria* on 20 December 1992 (**DD**; 1993-11).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (16/13). One was in Austin, *Travis* from 25 July–2 August 1992 (CS, GL, TF, PF, GDL; 1992-110, TPRF #1087). Another (believed to be a different individual) was in Austin from 18–21 August 1992 (**BF, GL**; 1992-112, TPRF #1098). Photographs documenting these two records were published in *AB* 46:1155 and *AB* 47:116, respectively.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (22). Two juveniles were in Nacogdoches, *Nacogdoches* on 12 October 1979 (**CT, SL**, DW; 1992-76). One in basic plumage was in San Antonio, *Bexar* from 26 May–1 June 1983 (**TH**; 1992-128). At least two in basic plumage were in El Paso, *El Paso* on 3 October 1992 (**BNe, DE**; 1992-125).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) (20/16). An immature was at San Luis Pass, *Brazoria/Galveston* on 9 February 1986 (**DD**, **DeR**; 1992-144). A second-winter bird was photographed north of Mustang Island SP, *Nueces* from 12–13 January 1992 (**JMu**, **FB**, **SMe**, MR, PP, RL, MLi; 1992-11, TPRF #1081). One adult was at Wright Patman Lake, *Bowie* on 29 January 1992 (**AW**; 1992-38). One adult was photographed in east Fort Worth, *Tarrant* during its stay 6–21 March 1992 (**JWS**, CH; 1992-43, TPRF #1102). An adult returned to Lake Waco, *McLennan* on 1 December 1992–31 January 1993 (**JMu**, DB, GDL, CH, FB; 1992-152, TPRF #1120). At least one adult was at White Rock Lake, *Dallas* from 5–27 February 1993 (**RA**, **NA**, RRa, MAu; 1993-23). A first-winter bird was photographed in San Antonio, *Bexar* during its stay 10–11 February 1993 (**WS**; 1993-22, TPRF #1143).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (24). An adult was at East Beach on Galveston Island, *Galveston* on 20 January 1980 (**PDH**; 1992-154). One adult was photographed on North Padre Island, *Kleberg/Nueces* on 24 December 1991 (**MC**, **AC**; 1992-51, TPRF #1107). One second- or third-winter bird was at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 25 December 1991 (**MC**; 1992-52). A third-winter bird was photographed in Galveston, *Galveston* on 17 February 1992 (**AW**, **WL**; 1992-39, TPRF #1108). A first-winter bird was photographed in San Antonio, *Bexar* during its stay 21–27 November 1992 (**WS**, GDL, JM, EM; 1992-150, TPRF #1104). One first- or second-winter bird was at Lake Waco, *McLennan* from 28 November 1992–17 January 1993 (**JMu**, **PI**; 1992-153). A first-winter bird was photographed in San Antonio from 5–9 January 1993 (**WS**, ML; 1993-15, TPRF #1142).

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (19). A first-winter bird was photographed at Lake Waco, *McLennan* during its stay 1–10 December 1991 (**JMu**, **FB**; 1992-54, TPRF #1114). A second-winter bird was at the Brownsville City Landfill, *Cameron* from 5–10 February 1992 (**DSi**, GDL; 1992-61). A first-winter bird was at White Rock Lake, *Dallas* on 24 January 1993 (**CH**, **MR**; 1993-17).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (56/45). One first-winter bird was photographed at the Brownsville City Landfill, *Cameron* on 6 January 1992 (**JD**; 1992-28, TPRF #1072). One adult was at the Brownsville City Landfill from 7–22 February 1992 (CB, CH; 1992-57). A first-winter bird was photographed at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 12 February 1992 (**AW**, **WL**; 1992-58, TPRF #1110). A first-winter bird was photographed at Quintana, *Brazoria* on 16 February 1992 (**AW**, **WL**; 1992-59, TPRF #1111). An adult was photographed at Beach City, *Chambers* on 17 February 1992 (**AW**, **WL**; 1992-60, TPRF #1109). One second-winter bird was at Braunig Lake, *Bexar* on 27 December 1992 (**WS**; 1993-6). One adult was photographed at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 9 January 1993 (**GDL**; 1993-16, TPRF #1152). The Mustang Island bird, documented since 1983, returned 11 October 1992–11 April 1993.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) (1). One third-winter bird was at the Brownsville City Landfill, *Cameron* from 7–22 February 1992 (**DSi**, CB, BM, JK, JMu, AW, BB, RA, NA, MR, WS, LA, CH, GDL; 1992-24, TPRF #1071). A photograph documenting this first record for Texas, one of only a handful of records outside Alaska, was published in *AB* 46:332.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) (51). One immature (first or second winter) was at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 29 April 1978 (DaM, EMcH; 1992-135). Another immature was found weakened on the beach and later died at Port

Aransas, *Nueces* on 9 May 1991 (**TA**, GL; 1992-21, TCWC #12927, TPRF #1077). This small-looking bird was initially thought to be an Iceland Gull until the specimen was critically examined. One first-winter bird was photographed at the Brownsville City Landfill, *Cameron* during its stay 28 December 1992–1 January 1993 (**CH**, PW, PI, JHa; 1993-9, TPRF #1145). A first-winter bird was photographed in San Antonio, *Bexar* during its stay 3–9 January 1993 (**WS**, ML; 1993-5, TPRF #1135).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) (16/12). One third- or fourth-winter bird was discovered in *Harrison* on 30 December 1992, and it was later relocated at Lake O' The Pines, *Marion* where it spent 3 January–27 March 1993 (**GLu**, **DBr**, PH, HB, JD, JL; 1993-4, TPRF #1144). A photograph documenting this record, the first inland record for Texas, was published in *AB* 47:1007.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (39). Unless otherwise noted, all birds were in first-winter plumage. One was off Galveston, *Galveston* from 27–29 November 1981 (**NJ**; 1992-142). One was in Freeport, *Brazoria* on 21 December 1986 (**DD**; 1992-101). Another was in Freeport on 17 December 1989 (**DD**; 1990-104). One was photographed at Boca Chica, *Cameron* during its stay 6–12 January 1992 (**JD**, AM, MF, DoR; 1992-29, TPRF #1073). One was at Lake Livingston, *Polk* from 23–28 March 1992 (**DW**; 1992-65). One was in Freeport on 20 December 1992 (**DD**; 1993-10).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (26). One juvenal plumaged bird was at Hagerman NWR, *Grayson* on 12 October 1990 (**RC**, **BV**; 1990-134). Another juvenal plumaged bird was photographed at Lake Waco, *McLennan* on 20 October 1991 (**JMu**; 1992-55, TPRF #1112).

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) (9). Three were 67 miles east of Port Isabel, *Cameron* on 12 September 1992 (**WS**, **MR**; 1992-119, TPRF #1066). A photograph documenting one of these birds was published in *AB* 47:117. Two were 60 miles east of Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 18 September 1992 (**CH**, **MR**, **CS**; 1992-116, TPRF #1067).

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) (3). One was 60+ miles east of Port Isabel, *Cameron* on 12 September 1992 (**MR**; 1992-122).

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) (9). One female was photographed at Cottonwood Campground, BBNP, *Brewster* during its stay 24 December 1991–5 May 1992 (**WK**, EV, CS, BP, MG, BO, DB, RA, NA, GM, JD, MC, AC, GL, GDL, LA, PG; 1992-12, TPRF #1075).

Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*) (6). One was photographed at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* during its stay 25 April–late July 1992 (**WW**, FH, RG, LG; 1992-87, TPRF #1116).

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) (1). One female or immature was photographed, captured, measured, feather-plucked, and released in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* during its stay 6–27 January 1992 (**CJ**, **WJ**, CC, GL, CS, JD, PL, SF, MC, AC, GDL, PG, FB, BRi, LA, NN, LP; 1992-10, TPRF #1133). A photograph documenting this first record for the United States was published in *AB* 46:332. Due to the complexity in *Anthracothorax* identification, a half dozen authorities on neotropical hummingbirds were consulted. Consultants and committee members generally concluded the bird was *prevostii* beyond a reasonable doubt and the record was accepted. Numerically, the addition of Green-breasted Mango to the Review List resulted in the removal of "Mango species" previously

added in 1990. Consequently, no numerical difference to the total accepted species count was realized.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) (12). An adult male was photographed in El Paso, *El Paso* during its stay 1 December 1991–8 January 1992 (**LLy, KRo**, JS, BZ; 1992-45, TPRF #1106). A photograph of this bird appeared in the January 6 edition of the El Paso *Herald-Post*. An immature male was photographed and tape recorded in Sinton, *San Patricio* during its stay 13 November 1992–19 February 1993 (**LS, MS**, CC, GS, JM, EM RRa, MC, AC, GDL, CH, JD, GL; 1992-132, TPRF #1101, TBSL #203-12). A photograph documenting this record was published in *AB* 47:320.

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) (4). One immature male was photographed and tape recorded in El Paso, *El Paso* on 16–17 September 1992 (**BZ**; 1993-3, TPRF #1128, TBSL #203-15).

Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) (24). One was in GMNP, *Culberson* on 3 December 1991 (**MC, AC**; 1992-163). One was photographed near Davis Mountains SP, *Jeff Davis* during its stay 22 February–10 May 1992 (CH, LA, PG, TF, PF, KB; 1992-48, TPRF #1091). One was photographed in Richardson, *Collin* during its stay 6 April–2 May 1992 (**AV**, JP, MP, MR; 1992-62, TPRF #1089).

Greater Pewee (*Contopus pertinax*) (3). A singing bird was at 7600 feet on Mt. Livermore in the Davis Mountains, *Jeff Davis* on 20 May 1992 (**JTr**; 1992-94).

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (3). Up to six, one of which was tape recorded, were outside Harlingen, *Cameron* from 25 December 1991–present (**OC**, BM, GL, MMa, TRH; 1992-34, TBSL #203-10).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) (3). One was at Packery Channel, *Nueces* from 23 May–1 June 1992 (MC, AC, GS, PP, WS, CS, GL, CM; 1992-74, TPRF #1082). A photograph documenting this third record for Texas was published in *AB* 46:449.

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) (15/12). An immature male was on the Norias Division of the King Ranch, *Kenedy* on 20 January 1992 (**JGo**; 1992-18).

Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) (43/38). One was photographed at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 16–17 January 1992 (SF; 1992-47, TPRF #1095). A pair was at Anzalduas County Park, *Zapata* on 1 May 1992 (PL; 1992-133). One was in McAllen, *Hidalgo* on 1 February 1993 (**SM**; 1993-28).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (15). One was in Lubbock, *Lubbock* on 15 December 1990 (**MN, NO**; 1991-108). One was in Lubbock again on 14 December 1991 (DSt; 1993-13). A female was at Davis Mountains SP, *Jeff Davis* from 8–27 March 1992 (**JMu, DMu**, KB; 1992-56, TPRF #1088). A photograph documenting this record was published in *AB* 46:448.

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) (7). One surprisingly territorial bird was photographed and tape recorded in Austin, *Travis* during its stay 3 May–5 July 1992 (**BR**, GL, VE, LA, BS, CS, GDL, DW, MW, CM; 1992-69, TPRF #1092, TBSL #203-10). A photograph documenting this first record for Central Texas was published in *AB* 46:500.

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*) (9). One was at Packery Channel, *Nueces* on 15 April 1992 (**WJ, CJ**; 1992-67). One (probably different) individual was at Packery Channel on 17 May 1992 (**AC**; 1992-80).

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) (6). One was in Crosby, *Harris* on 29 September 1992 (**GDL**; 1992-118).

Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) (7). One was at Dolan Falls Ranch, *Val Verde* on 10 January 1993 (**JKa**; 1993-18).

Olive Warbler (*Peucedramus taeniatus*) (1). One first-spring male was at 8,200 feet on Mt. Livermore, *Jeff Davis* on 19 May 1992 (**JG, KB**; 1992-72, TPRF #1094). A photograph documenting this first record for Texas was published in *AB* 46:450. While one other record is still circulating in the committee, several reports from BBNP, primarily from the 70s, remain unsubmitted.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) (10). Two to four were on the *Presidio/ Jeff Davis* county line on 17 April 1992 (**JD**; 1992-96). One was photographed in San Antonio, *Bexar* during its brief stay 29 April–1 May 1992 (**WS**; 1992-85, TPRF #1084). One was netted at Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area, *Presidio* on 29 October 1992 (**KB**; 1992-165, TPRF #1126). A photograph documenting this record was published in *AB* 47:120.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) (22). One was in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* on 30 December 1972 (**CBe, JSm**; 1992-107). One was at Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, *Colorado* on 20 December 1983 (WSh; 1992-103). One was in southern *Panola* on 29 December 1991 (**DW, MW**; 1992-35). One was photographed near Monaville, *Waller* on 31 December 1991 (**JD**; 1992-30, TPRF #1074). Two were near Sam Rayburn Reservoir, *Jasper* on 10 November 1992 (**RRa**; 1992-151).

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) (11). One immature was netted and banded at Davis Mountains SP, *Jeff Davis* on 11 November 1992 (**KB**; 1992-166, TPRF #1127). A photograph documenting this record was published in *AB* 47:168.

Yellow-eyed Junco (*Junco phaeonotus*) (4). One was at Boot Springs, BBNP, *Brewster* on 17 June 1980 (**PB**; 1993-24).

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) (2). One male was caught in a cowbird trap at Fort Hood, *Coryell* on 12 June 1992 (**GE**, C&JJ, GL; 1992-81, *TCWC #12980, TPRF #1083). A photograph documenting this second record for Texas was published in *AB* 46:1195. As was the case with the first Texas record of this species, this bird was caught within range of an active Black-capped Vireo colony. The bird was eventually dispatched, and the specimen was preserved.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) (3). One female was in Aledo, *Parker* from 12 December 1992–27 February 1993 (**T&JN**, CH, GDL, GL, CM; 1992-160, TPRF #1124). A photograph documenting this third record for Texas was published in *AB* 47:277.

Accepted Presumptive Species

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) (1). One was at Anzalduas County Park, *Hidalgo* from 17 March–5 April 1990 (TP, OC, JM, RG, LG, MH, PMi; 1990-83). It was unfortunate that photographs were not taken/uncovered since such evidence would have supported the first fully-documented U.S. record. As it turned out, this was a complicated record for the committee to review. Some members felt the submitted reports gave either incomplete or contradictory information, and there was a sense that not everyone was reporting the same bird

(kiskadees were present). After three circulations of indecision, the committee ruled to accept the record at the 1993 annual meeting based primarily on the initial documentation.

Unaccepted Records

A number of factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance. It is quite uncommon for a record to not be accepted because the bird was obviously misidentified. More commonly, a record is denied acceptance because the material submitted to the TBRC was incomplete, insufficient, superficial, or just too vague to properly document the reported occurrence while eliminating *all* other similar species. Also, written documentation or descriptions prepared *entirely from memory* weeks, months, or years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably. It is important that we stress here that the simple act of not accepting a particular record should by no means indicate that the TBRC or any of its members necessarily feels the record did not occur as reported. The non-acceptance of any record simply reflects the opinion of the TBRC that the documentation, as submitted, did not meet the rigorous standards appropriate for adding data to the formal historical record. The TBRC makes every effort to be as fair and objective as possible regarding each record. If the committee is unsure about any particular record, it prefers to err on the conservative side and not accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be re-submitted to the committee if additional substantive material is presented.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). One (1992-146) at Galveston, *Galveston* on 15 February 1986.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). One (1992-139) at the Texas City Dike, *Galveston* on 11 January 1983. One (1992-44) at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* on 23 January 1992.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). One (1992-143) at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* on 27 June 1981. One (1992-137) at Anahuac NWR from 1–8 May 1982. One (1991-107) on Galveston Island, *Galveston* on 22 August 1991. One (1991-133) in east Fort Worth, *Tarrant* on 28 September 1991.

West Indian Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*). One (1992-124) in Austin, *Travis* from late May–3 October 1992 may well have escaped from a nearby duck farm. As a result, the record was unaccepted on grounds of questionable origin.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*). One (1992-105) at Hagerman NWR, *Grayson* on 20 December 1980. Two (1992-102) at Lake Balmorhea, *Reeves* on 15 December 1984. Sixteen (1992-33) in *Cameron* on 28 December 1991. Separating this species from our dark Gulf coast form of Mottled Duck is extremely difficult; it is probably the least appreciated identification problem in North America today.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). One (1992-104) in Alice, *Jim Wells* on 21 December 1980.

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*). One (1991-120) old specimen was collected allegedly in Brownsville, *Cameron* on 23 May 1889 (*AMNH 79775). While its identification has never been disputed, the location of collection has been ques-

tioned. On the back of a suspected dealer's tag on the specimen is scrawled the annotation: "(loc. dubious)."

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*). One (1992-126) in Austin, *Travis* on 19 September 1975. One (1992-4) at Freeport, *Brazoria* on 15 December 1991.

Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*). One (1992-95) at McAllen, *Hidalgo* on 3 June 1992.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). One (1992-155) at High Island, *Galveston* on 29 April 1979. One (1991-83) on Matagorda Island, *Calhoun* on 14 May 1991.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). One (1992-170) at Cooper Lake, *Delta* on 10 October 1992.

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*). One (1992-138) in east *Harris* on 24 January 1984.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). One (1992-106) in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* on 30 December 1972.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). One (1992-157) at Galveston, *Galveston* on 16 January 1982. Three (1992-10) at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 1 January 1987.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). One (1991-19) at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 2 October 1989. This bird was originally submitted (1989-259) as a Great Black-backed Gull (see Lasley, 1990). Photographs of this very badly worn second-summer bird were circulated three times through the committee and to outside experts. The record was finally rejected at the annual meeting as its identity remains controversial. One (1990-41) at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* on 12 November 1989. One (1992-88) at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* on 12 January 1990. One (1992-89) at Laguna Atascosa on 19 February 1990. Two (1992-90) at Laguna Atascosa on 24 February 1990. There was not enough material in these last four records to eliminate other dark-backed gull species.

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*). One (1993-14) in *Hidalgo* on 13 January 1993.

Northern Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*). One (1992-50) in GMNP, *Culberson* on 4 December 1991. Heard-only records of this species which are not tape recorded (a pocket-sized microcassette recorder is all it takes) continue to be carefully scrutinized.

Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*). One (1992-136) at Crystal Beach, *Galveston* on 23 April 1983.

White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*). One (1991-115) in GMNP, *Culberson* on 8 August 1991.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*). One (1992-149) in Sinton, *San Patricio* on 25 November 1992. One (1993-27) photographed in Salineno, *Starr* from January–February 1993. Since specimens of green-backed Rufous Hummingbirds apparently exist, the committee has consistently not accepted sight and even photographic records of supposed Allen's Hummingbirds when hand-held measurements of tail feathers have been lacking. Such was the case with the above two records.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*). One (1992-63) in *Brewster* on 15 February 1992.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*). One (1991-86) in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* on 28 April 1991. One (1992-164) at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 2 October 1992. While both these records were of obvious *Myiodynastes*-type fly-

catchers, the submitted documentation did not eliminate Streaked or even Variegated Flycatcher completely: the occurrence of Streaked Flycatcher in Texas has been predicted for some time now and bears careful consideration.

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*). Two (1992-98) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 29–31 December 1986. One (1992-19) in northwest *Upshur* on 25 June 1991.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*). Two or more (1992-140) in Houston, *Harris* from late December 1982–6 February 1983.

Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*). One (1991-127) in Dallas, *Dallas* on 17 September 1991. This is not a review species, but given the locale and habitat involved, its review was requested. Most committeee members concluded the description did not eliminate Solitary Vireo.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). One (1992-162) at La Porte, *Harris* on 4–5 November 1992.

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*). One (1993-20) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* from 30 December 1992–2 January 1993.

Yellow Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysopeplus*). One (1992-114) in BBNP, *Brewster* on 9 September 1992.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). One or more (1991-109) at College Station, *Brazos* on 15 December 1990. One (1991-110) at Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, *Colorado* on 19 December 1990.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*). Two or three (1991-82) at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* on 21 April 1991.

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TBRC Review List

The TBRC requests details, including descriptions and photos if possible, of all records of the following species.

Review List A.—Rarities: These species, in general, include birds that have occurred four or fewer times per year anywhere in Texas over a ten-year average. The TBRC requests documentation for review for any new or any previously unsubmitted record of the below species no matter how long

ago the record occurred. The TBRC also requests details on any record of a species not yet accepted on the Texas State List.

Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Yellow-nosed Albatross, White-chinned Petrel, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Red-billed Tropicbird, Blue-footed Booby, Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby, Glossy Ibis, Jabiru, Greater Flamingo, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, American Black Duck, White-cheeked Pintail, Garganey, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Masked Duck, Snail Kite, Northern Goshawk, Crane Hawk, Roadside Hawk, Short-tailed Hawk, Paint-billed Crake, Spotted Rail, Double-striped Thick-Knee, Collared Plover, Northern Jacana, Wandering Tattler, Eskimo Curlew, Surfbird, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Red Phalarope, Long-tailed Jaeger, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Elegant Tern, Bridled Tern, Brown Noddy, Black Noddy, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Mangrove Cuckoo, Snowy Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Mottled Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, White-collared Swift, Green Violet-ear, Green-breasted Mango, Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Elegant Trogon, Lewis' Woodpecker, Ivory-billed Woodpecker (presumed extirpated in Texas), Greenish Elaenia, Tufted Flycatcher, Greater Pewee, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Masked Tityra, Gray-breasted Martin, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-billed Magpie, American Dipper, Clay-colored Robin, White-throated Robin, Rufous-backed Robin, Varied Thrush, Aztec Thrush, Black Catbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Gray Silky-flycatcher, Yellow-green Vireo, Black-whiskered Vireo, Yucatan Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Red-faced Warbler, Golden-crowned Warbler, Rufous-capped Warbler, Olive Warbler, Crimson-collared Grosbeak, Blue Bunting, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Baird's Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Yellow-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Shiny Cowbird, Black-vented Oriole, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Review List B.—Species under special study by sub-committee of TBRC concerning their distribution and status in Texas: Records of these species will not be formally reviewed by the TBRC (except for winter Swainson's Hawk and Semipalmated Sandpiper records which will be reviewed), but documentation is requested to assist in these studies.

Clark's Grebe, Cory's Shearwater, Muscovy Duck, Common Black-Hawk, Swainson's Hawk (December–January), Aplomado Falcon (reintroduction program in progress), Semipalmated Sandpiper (December–January), Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Spotted Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, Northern Shrike.

Presumptive Species List.—The following is the official TBRC list of species for which written descriptions of sight records have been accepted by the TBRC but the species has not yet met the requirements for full acceptance on the Texas List (specimen, photo, video, or audio recording for at least one record).

White-crowned Pigeon, Berylline Hummingbird, Social Flycatcher, Slate-throated Redstart.

Call-counts of West Texas Common Poorwills

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ABSTRACT.—Call-counts of Common Poorwills (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) were taken from roads in Kent County, Texas in 1992. Factors affecting call-counts included habitat, weather, season, distance, temperature and moonlight.

Introduction

Since goatsuckers are seldom seen, call-counts at intervals along roads may be the most practical way to estimate their abundance. Cooper (1981) took a series of call-counts in 1975 to determine the relative abundance of Chuck-will's-widows (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) and Whip-poor-wills (*C. vociferus*) in Clark County, Georgia. He studied habitat types and made correlations between numbers of calling birds and different environmental variables.

Mengel and Jenkinson (1971) noted the importance of moonlight on caprimulgid calling activity. Baker and Peake (1966) noted the adverse effect of wind on calling.

The purpose of this study was to estimate the abundance of Common Poorwills (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) in the rolling plains of West Texas by making call counts and relating different environmental factors to calling activity.

Study Area and Method

This study was conducted in Kent County, Texas, on 200 km of roads within a 50 km radius of Jayton. Eighty-seven percent of the land in the county is native grassland, typified by side oats gramma (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Little Bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*), juniper (*Juniperus* sp.), and mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*). All of the native habitat contained some mesquite trees and forty-one percent had juniper trees. Three percent of the county is in CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) in which the primary grasses are love grass (*Eragrostis* sp.), and Klien Grass (*Panicum coloratum*). The CRP land has been planted in grass for 6 years and does not have any trees. Ten percent of the county is in cultivation on which the principal crops grown are cotton, wheat, and milo. The average rainfall in Kent County is 54 cm.

Thirty-four (34) listening stations were selected at 5 to 8 km intervals, most at high points or other notable land marks. The number of calls during a 3-minute time period were counted at each station. A 3-minute sandglass was used to measure time. If a noise, such as truck traffic, occurred the sandglass was laid horizontal until listening could be resumed.

Observations were not conducted on evenings when the wind was over 25 km/h or it was raining, as these conditions impaired hearing.

Mengel and Jenkinson (1971) stated that they could hear a caprimulgid call 1.2 km away. Based on this estimate, each listening point in the present study covered an area of 460 ha and the 34 points totaled 15,550 ha.

Table 1. Monthly observations of Common Poorwill calls, 1992.

	Minutes	Calls	Birds	Birds/ listening period	Calls/minute
March	9	0	0	0	0
April	228	703	38	0.5	3.08
May	27	177	11	1.2	6.56
June	24	83	4	.5	3.46
July	69	627	39	1.7	9.09
August	39	404	17	1.3	10.36
September	39	187	16	1.2	4.79
October	12	0	0	0	0

The temperature and size of the moon (to the nearest ¼th) were noted at the start of each nightly trip.

Results and Discussion

In 40 hours and 40 minutes of night field observation in 1992 I saw only two birds who flew from perches on ranch paths. I saw another Common Poorwill during the day while riding a horse. In 7 hours and 27 minutes of listening I heard 2,018 calls. I heard the first call on April 3rd and the last call on September 27th. Jaeger (1949) reported that the period of lethargy for his captive bird was from 26 November 1947 to 14 February 1948. Brauner (1952) reported the latest date of Common Poorwill activity in the field was 28 November 1949 and the earliest resumption was 22 January 1950 in the Santa Monica Mountains of California. I found that Common Poorwills prefer native habitat (which has never been cultivated). Seventy-one percent of the total area covered was uncultivated, 12% was CRP or recently planted grasses, and 17% was cultivated. I did not hear a call over CRP or cultivated land. Thirteen (38%) of the stations were in native habitat. Nineteen (59%) of the stations contained native habitat and CRP and/ or cultivated land. I did not find any preference for stations totally surrounded by native habitat. Cooper (1981) reported Chuck-will's-widows favor cultivated land and Whip-poor-wills prefer forested area.

Common Poorwills are adversely affected by human and automobile activities. I did not hear a Common Poorwill call closer than 50 meters, or, over or near a road or house. Five percent of the calls I heard were within 100 meters or less; 15% were within 200 meters; 26% were within 400 meters; and, 54% were 800 meters or greater. I have found no Common Poorwills that were killed on the road.

I do not find any published data on calls per minute for Common Poorwills. However, Mengel and Jenkinson (1971) report Chuck-will's-widows calling at the rate of 8.5 per minute. Table 1 compares minutes of observation, numbers of Common Poorwills heard, calls heard, and calls heard per minute for the months of March through October. The data for June were reduced because of twenty days of stormy weather. I heard the most calls per minute in August at a rate of 10.36 per minute. I heard the most birds per time period in July at a rate of 1.7 birds per 3 minute period. I reported a yearly rate of 4.5 calls per minute.

Several writers have noted the effect of light on the vocalizations of caprimul-

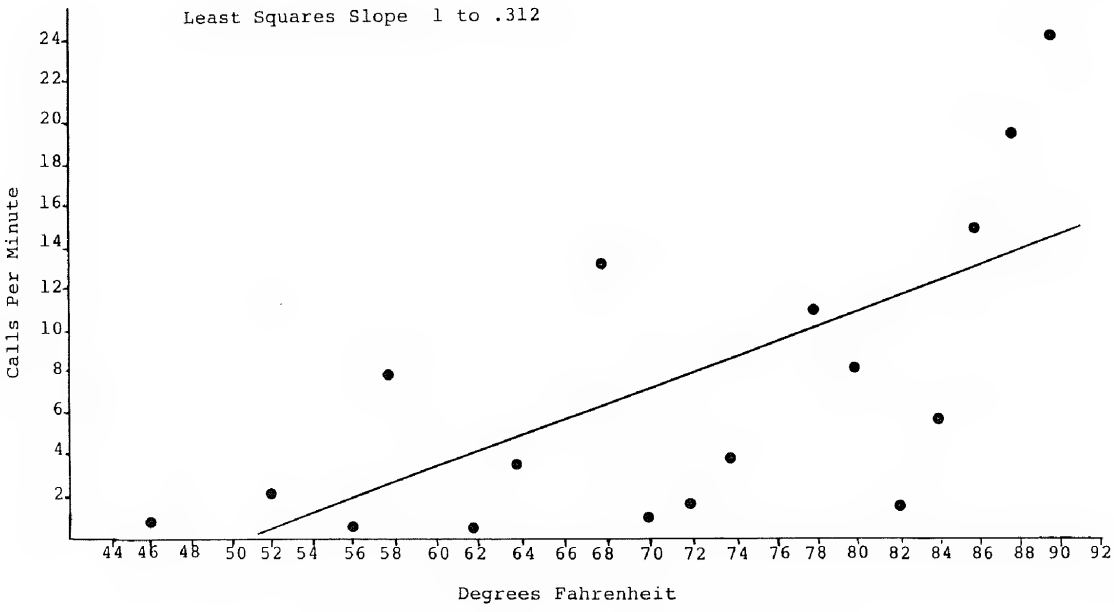

Fig. 1. Relationship of calls and temperature.

gids. Harper (1938), in his observations on Chuck-will's-widow, notes that singing is determined largely by the amount of moonlight and that on moonlit evenings they continue to sing. Mengel and Jenkinson (1971) noted that Chuck-will's-widows sing at dusk and at night with a half moon or greater.

Brauner (1952) reports no known instances in which Common Poorwills were active during the day, although he noted a couple of instances of daytime calling. I did not note daytime calling during this study and observed daytime activity only when Poorwills were flushed.

Brauner observes that calling begins at the end of twilight period or about 20 minutes after sunset. I observed that calling begins 20 to 30 minutes after sunset. He reports that a captive Common Poorwill became active at the end of twilight and just before dawn.

Brauner reports 25 to 30 minutes of activity for ¾ moon or less, and 140 to 200 minutes of activity for a full moon (apparently from captive Common Poorwills). The number of calls per minute I observed on wild populations varied widely but showed an increase in calling for brighter phases of the moon. The number of calls per minute for a full moon ranged from 2.7 to 42 with an average of 21.2; calls during a three quarter moon ranged from 0.6 to 40 with an average of 13.4; calls during a half moon ranged from 1.3 to 31.7 with an average of 19.13; calls during a quarter moon ranged from 7.7 to 13 with an average of 10.3; and calls during the dark of the moon ranged from 0.3 to 34 with an average of 9.2 calls per minute.

Brauner recorded the body temperature of Poorwills and reported the maximum temperatures at dusk and dawn. He did not, however, correlate calling and temperature.

Cooper (1981) reports that Chuck-will's-widows are more likely to sing at higher temperatures than Whip-poor-wills.

Harper (1938) reports considerable variation in the rate of calling at a given temperature in Chuck-will's-widows. He did not report a correlation between singing and temperature but shows a definite tendency towards an increase in rate with an increase in temperature.

Figure 1 shows the relationship between calling and temperature. The results were quite varied. I found nominal calling (fewer than 2 per minute) in all 10 degree periods from 40 degrees to 80 degrees. The least squares line shows a gradual increase in calling with increases in temperature. I found the greatest number of calls at the highest temperature.

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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

A Large Concentration of Masked Ducks (*Oxyura dominica*) on the Welder Wildlife Refuge, San Patricio County, Texas

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The distribution of the Masked Duck ranges from the Gulf Coast of Florida, Louisiana, and Texas southward through Central and South America east of the Andes to northern Argentina and Uruguay (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). The highest population densities occur in central and northern South America (Rappole and Blacklock 1985). Sightings in the United States have occurred outside the Gulf Coast area, but the majority of records come from Texas. Palmer (1975) states that Masked Ducks are seldom seen together, and a group of 9 is rare. There was a report of 24 at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in December 1948 (Palmer 1975), and a report of 10 near Flour Bluff, Nueces County in December 1968 (Oberholser 1974). There is no indication that these ducks migrate. Palmer (1975) indicates that Masked Ducks are sedentary and occasionally wander or move about for pair formation. Oberholser (1974) says they "wander widely" suggesting that "wandering" is a routine behavior.

A large concentration of Masked Ducks was present on the Welder Wildlife Foundation Refuge (WWF), San Patricio County, Texas, during January and February 1993. The Masked Duck has been sighted in south Texas on a regular basis individually or in very small numbers in a variety of localities. Oberholser (1974) describes the Masked Duck as a sporadic resident that is very rare, local, and irregular along the Texas Coast from Cameron to Chambers counties.

We first identified 6 Masked Ducks on the WWF on 8 October 1992. Thirty-two were sighted on 20 January 1993 (in groups of 25 and 7). A group of 21 was sighted on 22 January 1993 on Pollita Lake. These birds were within a 30-m radius of each other. They were swimming and resting under dead huisache (*Acacia smallii*) and sesbania (*Sesbania drummondii*) bushes. The water was relatively open with little emergent vegetation. Other observers found 37 Masked Ducks on the WWF on 8 February 1993: 7 on Venado Swale, 5 on Big Lake, and 25 on Pollita Lake. Lasley (pers. comm.) reports that these ducks were seen in groups of 2 to 6. The Masked Ducks sighted on the above lakes were within a 1,000-m radius of each other.

Pollita Lake is approximately 30 ha in size, with water up to 1.5 m deep. During the winter, water and banks are relatively open with only small amounts of emergent vegetation. In summer, yellow lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) covers Pollita Lake, making it very difficult to observe bird activity on the water surface.

Fig. 1. A pair of Masked Ducks was seen on Venado Swale, Welder Wildlife Refuge during the summer of 1993. Photo by Terry Blankenship.

A man-made levee holds water in Venado Swale. Material removed to make the levee produced a drainage ditch that contains water up to 1 m deep. The remainder of this wetland is up to 0.3 m deep. Although the deeper section of the drainage ditch is open, spiny aster (*Leucosyris spinosa*) is abundant up to its edge. Bulrush (*Scirpus californicus*) and cattails (*Typha latifolia*) are present in the shallower, upper reaches of the drainage ditch.

On 22 February 1993, 12 Masked Ducks were seen on Venado Swale. When approached the Masked Ducks did not fly, but swam into the cattails or behind concealing vegetation. Individuals or groups were seen on a regular basis on Venado Swale from 1 February to 31 March. One female was seen in April, and a male in breeding plumage was observed on 17 May 1993. Three Masked Ducks (1M, 2F) were observed on 1 April 1993 on Pollita Lake. Three pairs were observed on Pollita Lake and 1 pair on Venado Swale on 22, 23, and 24 June 1993 (see Fig. 1). One pair was flushed out of a clump of spiny aster. Inspection of the clump indicated that a nest was under construction. Later, on 21 August 1993, a female Masked Duck with 5 young (½ grown in relation to adult female) were seen on Venado Swale. Bellrose (1976) lists 3 breeding records in the late 1960s, 2 at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and 1 near Falfurrias, Brooks County, Texas. Rappole and Blacklock (1985) suggest that breeding in the Coastal Bend is most often associated with wet cycles. WWF records show above average rainfall (+38 cm) for 1992 and it received its average annual rainfall (90 cm) in the first 6 months of 1993. Wetlands have received a bountiful supply of water and this may explain the increased numbers of Masked Ducks on the WWF.

Historic observations on the WWF indicate that the Masked Duck is only a

casual species and that influxes of birds are only a temporary phenomenon. Christmas bird counts have been conducted on the WWF from 1956 to 1993 (WWF Records). During these counts, Masked Ducks were observed on only three occasions, 13 in 1967 and 3 each in 1968 and 1970. Also, 3 birds were seen on 8 June 1972 (Bellrose 1976). Although some of our observations may represent resightings, there clearly are more of these birds on WWF at present than at any other period for which records are available. We will monitor the presence of the species to determine if it becomes more common and thus warrants a change in status from a sporadic resident to a more common occurring species.

This is Welder Wildlife Foundation contribution number 431.

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Great Kiskadee Nesting on a Purple Martin Box

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The Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) is a common permanent resident of riparian forest and well-wooded residential areas in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) of Texas (Oberholser 1974). It recently has expanded its range to the Del Rio area (Lasley and Sexton 1984) and Live Oak County (Lasley and Sexton 1987). Kiskadees are well known for their bulky, domed nests, usually placed in the major fork of a tree (Dickey and Van Rossem 1938; Hilty and Brown 1986). Nests are usually found in live trees, both thorny and thornless, in the LRGV (Bendire 1895; Bent 1942; Brush, unpub. data). Kiskadee nests have also been seen in a nesting compartment of a Purple Martin box (Lasley and Sexton 1985) and on top of an old Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) nest (Friedmann 1925). Although kiskadees frequently nest near homes (Dickey and Van Rossem 1938; Escalante 1988), only once has a nest been reported on an artificial substrate (Lasley and Sexton 1985).

On 23 July 1993, I found an active Great Kiskadee nest about 4 m above the ground, on top of a 4-unit structure designed for Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) in southwestern Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas. The nest was placed in the

depressed area between the turrets of the castle-like structure, with the side entrance facing nearly due North, toward a vacant lot. The nest was made entirely of fine grasses, with a thin lining of grass inside the nest. I twice observed an adult bring small fruits to the nest. The nest was within 15 m of a small wooded area and within 30 m of a canal. The nest was in the direct sun most of the day, although several mesquite trees 6 m tall were within 15 m of the nest. The four compartments of the nest box contained inactive nests of House Sparrows.

The Great Kiskadee nest was probably successful, although actual fledging was not observed. A group of four Great Kiskadees, including two juveniles, remained in the same area at least through August 1993. As noted by Mitchell (1957), the nest was intact and clean after use. The design of the nest box may have made it more suitable than most such structures, since the turrets created a depression similar to the fork of a tree. Use of Purple Martin boxes as nest sites (Lasley and Sexton 1985, this study) may have contributed to the recent range expansion of Great Kiskadees in Texas. I thank Tom and Shelia Pozorski for sharing their backyard nest with me, and two anonymous reviewers, for their helpful comments.

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W. E. Sherrill, Ornithological Observer in Haskell County, Texas, 1890–1938

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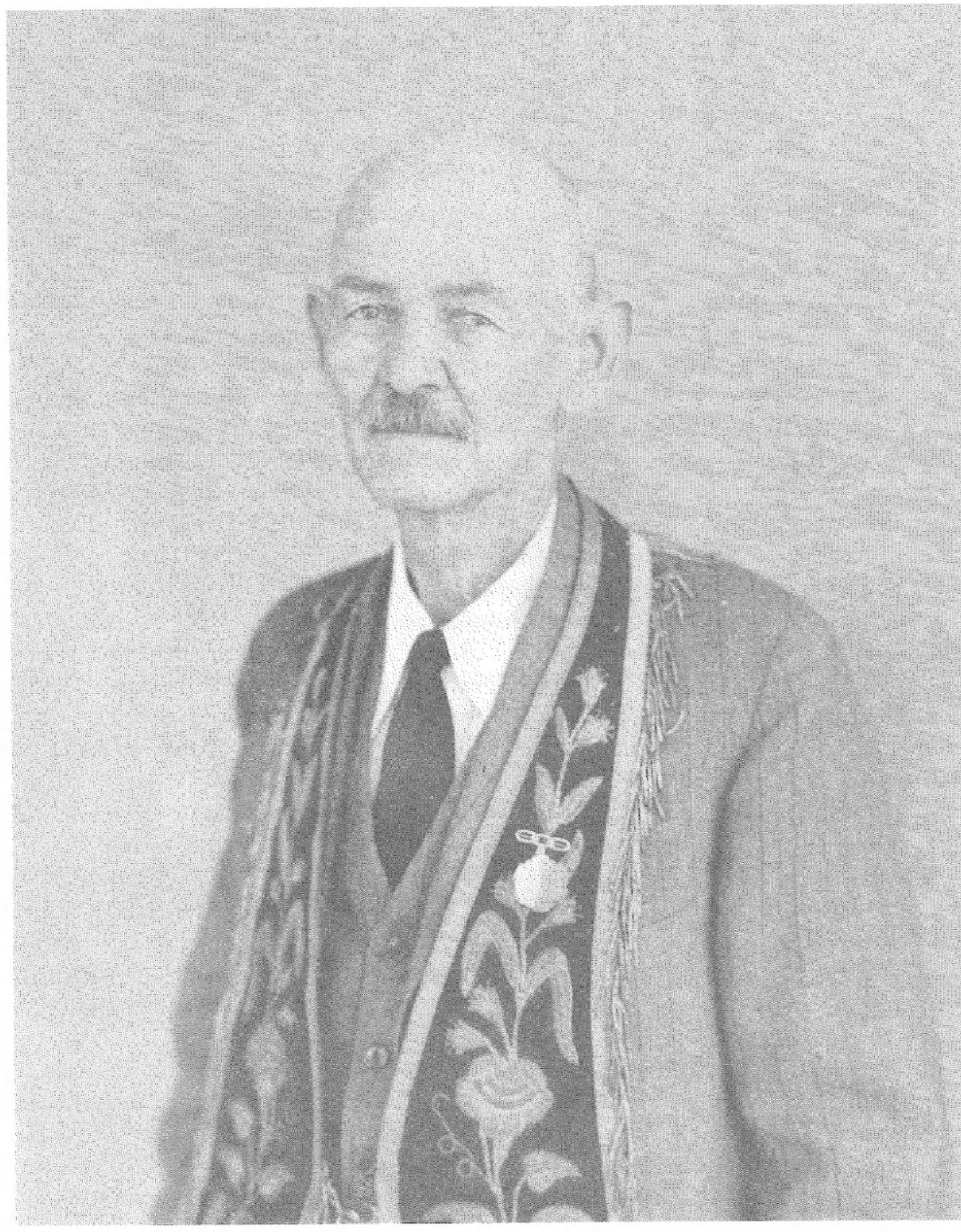
The single paragraph biography of William Enos Sherrill by T. S. Palmer (1954) states that Sherrill furnished "information and notes" for the book that H. C. Oberholser was then preparing on the birds of Texas. However, Oberholser's completed volumes, published in 1974, contain no acknowledgment or reference either to Sherrill or his three published papers. *The Bird Life of Texas* does, however, mention Haskell County as the place of collection or occurrence of subspecies of the Horned Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Eastern Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, MacGillivray's Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird, and the Northern Cardinal. These records, which were presumed to be attributable to W. E. Sherrill, have now been verified by an examination of Oberholser's original typescript of *The Bird Life of Texas* in the Center For American History at the University of Texas in Austin. Sherrill's records for an additional 34 species are also found in the typescript suggesting that he was a trusted source of information. Unfortunately, when the distributional and seasonal records for each species were converted to symbols on a county map of Texas, Sherrill's name simply disappeared. It is thus the purpose of this note to record what is known of this pioneer observer.

William Enos Sherrill, son of Richard and Elizabeth McCormick Sherrill, was born in Ofahoma, Leake County, Mississippi on 29 August 1868. In 1870 the family moved to Texas, settling in Titus County, where William's father served as the minister of a Presbyterian church. Over the next twenty years the Sherrill family lived at various locations before moving to Haskell in 1890 (Paddock 1906).

William received his public school education at Seguin in Guadalupe County and at Milford in Ellis County. He then attended Southwestern Presbyterian University in Clarksville, Tennessee, before transferring to Westminister College in Fulton, Missouri, where he obtained his degree. In 1890, he returned to Haskell where he entered into the hardware business with his brothers Charles and Richard Sherrill (Paddock 1906).

It is probable that William Sherrill acquired his interest in birds while attending college. Some of his first collecting was done during May 1892 while on a camping trip to the Pease River near the foot of the Llano Estacado. His extensive travels throughout Haskell County and surrounding areas delivering parts and repairing harvesters also provided opportunities to collect eggs.

Sherrill published two articles in *The Nidologist* during 1896. The first report provided information on the nesting of Mississippi Kites on the Pease River during 1892 and on the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River during 1893 (Sherrill 1896a). The second and more detailed report dealt with the chronology



WILLIAM ENOS SHERRILL

Sherrill is shown wearing the ceremonial stole of the International Order of Odd Fellows.

of nesting, nest construction and placement, size and marking of eggs, and the appearance of the nestlings of the Chihuahuan Raven (Sherrill 1896b). A third note, published in 1898, reported the occurrence of an albino Lark Sparrow at Haskell (Sherrill 1898). Although he maintained a life-long interest in birds, I can find no evidence that Sherrill published anything after 1898.

William Sherrill was elected an associate member of the A. O. U. in 1922 and remained in good standing until his death on 19 March 1938 (Palmer 1954). It was presumably during the time that he was affiliated with the A. O. U. that he furnished "information and notes" to Oberholser.

Sherrill's records are based either on sightings or the collection of the bird or its eggs. His records date from 1892 through 1899 and 1921 through 1938. The absence of records between 1900 and 1920 probably represents a period when Sherrill was preoccupied with his business. Sherrill's extensive collection of eggs and several mounted specimens were donated to the Haskell High School before his death. The school later burned and the collection was destroyed. All of Sherrill's immediate family are now dead and the location of his personal papers is unknown (Chapman 1991).

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NOTES AND NEWS

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